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Marian Christopher

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Daniel SANTI, et al.

Serial No.:

09/699,136

Filing Date:

October 27, 2000

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Examiner: Dr. Kathleen Kerr, PhD

Group Art Unit: 1652

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein mailed February 14, 2002, time for response to which is set to expire May 14, 2002. Claims 1-25 were rejected. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is the following Exhibit A: Marked-up Version of Amendments to the Specification and Claims.